

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 EUR-25 AF-10 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6366

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJ: GAMAL OTEIFI ON INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

ON APRIL 25, PEOPLES ASSEMBLY DEPUTY SPEAKER GAMAL OTEIFI
COMMENTED ON THE FOLLOWING TO EMBOFF:

1. CABINET CHANGE. OTEIFI CONFIRMED THAT CABINET CHANGE WOULD BE ANNOUNCED TOMORROW, APRIL 26, AND THAT HEGAZI WOULD BE FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. MININFO HATEN WOULD BE OUT OF THE CABINET AND WOULD POSSIBLY(THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY) BE MOVED TO ASU. FAHMY WILL REMAIN AS FOREIGN MINISTER, AND A MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD PROBABLY BE APPOINTED TO TAKE CHAREG OF FOREIGN MINISTRY DURING FAHMY'S FREQUENT ABSENCES. OTEIFI SAID THAT CABINET WOULD NOT BE REDUCED MUCH IN SIZE, PAST STATEMENT BY ALI AMIN TO THE CONTRARY.

2. CHANGES IN ASU AND PEOPLES ASSEMBLY. OTEIFI SAID THAT HE EXPECTED CABINET SHUFFLE TO BE FOLLOWED IN SUCCEEDING WEEKS BY A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP IN BOTH THE ASU AND THE ASSEMBLY. ASU AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUED DID NOT SUIT SADAT'S PARTIULAR NEEDS. FOR ONE MATTER, A GREATER DIVERSITY OF VIEWPOINT SHUOULD BE PERMITTED INTHE ORGANIZATION, BUT OTEIFI ADDED THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE A MAJOR

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CHANGE ALLOWING SEPARATE POLITICAL STRUCTURES OR PARTIES

WITHIN THE ASU. REGARDING THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY, OTEIFI SAID THAT A LEADERSHIP CHANGE WAS LIKELY THERE AS WELL: FOR EXAMPLE, HAFEZ BADAWI, THE PRESENT SPEAKER, WAS LIKELY TO BE REPLACED EITHER BY SAYYID MAR'I OR HIMSELF: OTEIFI INDICATED THAT, BECAUSE OF HIS UN COMMITMENTS, MAR'I WAS THE LESS LIKELY CHOICE.

3. ATTACK ON MILITARY TECHNICAL ACADEMY. OTEIFI SAID FLATLY THAT MATTER WAS CONSPIRACYDIRECTED WITH LIBYAN ASSISTANCE, BUT HE NOTED THAT QADHAAFI HAD BEEN ABLE TO FIND SUPPORT FROM SOME RELIGIOUS EXTREMISTS WITHIN EGYPT ITSELF. THESE WERE YOUNGER ELEMENTS UNRELATED TO MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD, WHICH OTEIFI DESCRIBED AS VIRTUALLY DEFUNCT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SADAT CONTINUED TO FACE A PROBLEM FROM CONSERVATIVE ISLAMIC GROUPS WITHIN EGYPTIAN SOCIETY, AND REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO DISUCSSION WHICH HAD OCCURED AT AL-AZHAR OVER RECENTLY PROPOSED REVISION OF PRSONAL STATUS LAW.

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